



TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Contact: Rep. Pronschinske
(608) 266-7015

Disappointment in Veto of Local Road Funding

I have often discussed in my columns the importance of funding roads that are not just in big cities such as Madison and Milwaukee. After all, it is the smaller communities like ours that bring tourism and supports agriculture that feeds the rest of the state. More than half of our local roads statewide are in poor condition with crumbling infrastructure.

With that being said, I was extremely disappointed that Governor Evers partially vetoed the funding for the Local Road Improvement Program in the budget that was sent to him by the legislature. His partial budget veto eliminates \$15 million of local road aid. The Assembly passed a transportation budget that would have tripled the program's aid to \$90 million, which was more than Governor Evers' proposal.

Because of this veto, the Department of Transportation (DOT) now has a \$75 million slush fund that allows them to prioritize which projects get funded. Before the veto by the Governor, the budget would have allocated this money directly to our local counties, towns, and villages. Essentially making it so that urban areas, Madison and Milwaukee, can receive more money for projects instead of our local, small town roads.

While there are many issues we can agree and disagree on, funding local roads is one that I believe we can come together to support. Creating better local roads saves us money on car repairs and also creates a safer driving experience.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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